

**Abstract**

The invention is relative to a novel method for the detection of coliforms, which is based on the use of a mixture of amino acids to promote the expression of inducible enzymes, in absence of cell growth. This enzyme-inducing solution can be used for the rapid detection of the enzymes  $\beta$ -glucuronidase and/or  $\beta$ -galactosidase in a very small number of *E. coli* and/or total coliforms.